

## **Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Actions**

Red Sand Pit 5,000 ton Mineral Material Sale  
DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-2011-001-CX

### **A. Background**

BLM Office: ***Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO)***  
Lease/Serial/Case File No.: **AZA - 035458**

Proposed Action Title/Type: **Red Sand Pit Noncompetitive Mineral Material Sale**

Location of Proposed Action: T. 4 S., R. 5 W., Section 4, SE, Gila & Salt River Meridian, Southeast portion of Gila Bend Mountains, approximately 5 miles north of Gila Bend, Maricopa County, Arizona. Site is accessed off and located adjacent to the existing Citrus Valley Road. See Figure 1.

Description of Proposed Action: Allow Wintersburg Holding Group, Corporation, represented by Mr. Russell Jaffe, to mine 5,000 tons of sand over the length of (2 years) of the contract. No processing equipment will be located on site during the proposed operations, which will consist of ripping and loading sand onto trucks and transporting to off-site processing location. No new disturbance is authorized and total area remains below 5 acre threshold.

### **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: **Lower Gila South RMP & EIS**  
Date Approved/Amended: **6/1/1998**

☒ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

p. 12, "Demand for saleable minerals would be met by sales or free-use permits on a case-by-case basis," This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2).

### **C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.5:

Department Manual 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4F(10) - Disposal of mineral materials such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, not exceeding 50,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres, except in riparian areas.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 or 516 DM 11.5 apply.

I considered: the following when reviewing the proposed project:

Cultural clearances have been completed for this site under two separate prior mineral material contracts that were approved on this site. Through analysis for CX-AZA--020-2002-0066 and CX-AZA-210-2005-0058, no artifacts or cultural remains were identified. Cultural clearance is recommended with standard stipulations.

No T&E habitat or species are present in this area. Standard stipulations will apply.

**D: Signature**

Authorizing Official: \_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_11/12/2010\_\_

**Emily Garber**  
LSFO Field Office Manager

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:  
Karen Conrath, Geologist, LSFO

**Note:** A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX. See Attachment 2.

BLM Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances<sup>1</sup>

**Attachment 1**

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?		

<sup>1</sup> If an action has any of these impacts, you must conduct NEPA analysis.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

## Approval and Decision

### Attachment 2

**Compliance and assignment of responsibility:** Karen Conrath, Geologist

**Monitoring and assignment of responsibility:** Karen Conrath, Geologist

**Review:** *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

**Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 11 / 05 / 2010

**Karen Conrath, Geologist**

Project Lead

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 11 / 05 / 2010

**Leah Baker**

Planning & Environmental Coordinator

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 11 / 12 / 2010

**Emily Garber**

Manager

#### **Project Description:**

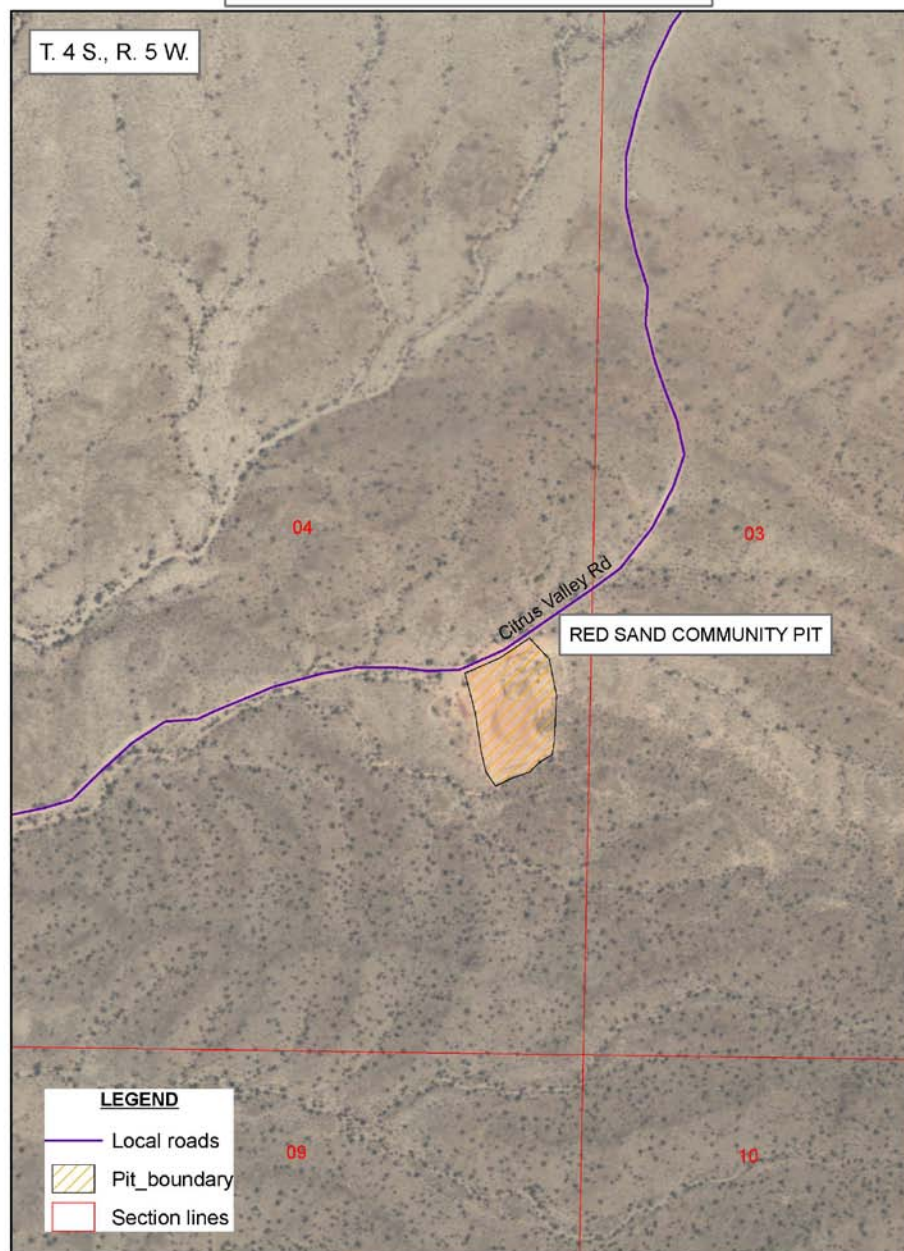
BLM would issue a mineral materials contract not to exceed 5,000 tons (approximately 3,700 cubic yards) to Wintersburg Holding Group for a period of two years. No processing equipment will be located on site during the mining operations, which will consist of ripping and loading the sand onto trucks and transporting to off-site location for further processing. Mining activities will be confined to existing disturbance within existing pit boundaries.

**Decision:** Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable).

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_11/12/2010\_\_

Emily Garber

Wintersburg Holding Group  
Red Sand Pit Mineral Material Sale Application  
AZA - 35458



600 300 0 600 Feet

Figure 1